

Message Text

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ORIGIN PA-02

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 199846 TOSEC 090065

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT:PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT CARL T. ROWAN, WASHINGTON STAR
AUGUST 22 ARTICLE HEADED "VANCE'S FAILURE OF SELF-PROMOTION."

2. CYRUS VANCE HAD BETTER EITHER STAY HOME OR LEARN HOW
TO FLAMFLOOZE AND BEAZZLE THE PRESS CORPS, OR HE'LL
WIND UP LABELED AS ONE OF THIS COUNTRY'S WORST SECRETARIES
OF STATE.

3. HE'S JUST BACK FROM A MIDDLE EAST TRIP THAT WAS A
FAILURE, AND HE HAD AN EARLIER MISSION TO MOSCOW FOR
DISARMAMENT TALKS THAT TURNED OUT TO BE A BUST.

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4. NOW HE'S IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON A
JOURNEY THAT WILL BE CALLED A FLOP IF IT DOES NOT LEAD
TO EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEKING.

5. ALREADY, SOME OF MY PRESS COLLEAGUES ARE WHISPERING
THAT VANCE DOESN'T HAVE THE ,SMARTS" NEEDED FOR THE JOB,

THAT HE GOES OFF POORLY PREPARED ON ILL-CONCEIVED

MISSIONS.

6. VANCE DOES HAVE A MAJOR SHORTCOMING, BUT IT IS
NEITHER HIS INTELLECT NOR HIS STAFF'S PREPARATION FOR
HIS JOURNEYS.

7. VANCE DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO SELL HIMSELF AS A GREAT
PEACEMAKER EVEN WHEN HE HAS MADE NO PEACE, OR AS THE
ARCHITECT OF EPOCHAL AGREEMENTS WHEN THERE ARE NO
MEANINGFUL AGREEMENTS.

8. WHEN HENRY KISSINGER SHUTTLED OVER THE MIDDLE EAST,
THERE WAS ALWAYS A "SENIOR OFFICIAL" ON HIS PLANE WHO
TOLD THE PRESS HOW KISSINGER HAD AVERTED ONE SORT OF
CALAMITY OR ANOTHER. MIND YOU, WE GOT A BRUISING MIDDLE
EAST WAR AND A SEARING OIL EMBARGO DURING THE YEARS WHEN
KISSINGER WAS THE MANIPULATOR OF US FOREIGN POLICY, BUT
THE PRESS PLAY ALWAYS FOCUSED ON HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO
PEACE.

9. KISSINGER'S ROLE IN FASHIONING DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET
UNION IS LOOKED AT WITH JAUNDICED EYE NOW BY MANY
AMERICANS. HIS ROLE IN HELPING PRESIDENT NIXON TO AN
OPENING IN CHINA DOES NOT LOOK NEARLY AS AWE-INSPIRING AS
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IT DID WHEN KISSINGER WAS DOING THOSE "SENIOR OFFICIAL"
BRIEFINGS.

10. PONDER JUST A FEW OF THE HEADLINES OF THAT ERA:

11. "IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S SUPER K"

12. "SOVIETS SOUNDING RHAPSODIC ON VIRTUES OF ARMS
ACCORD"

13. "WINDS OF CHANGE IN MAO'S CHINA"

14. IN THE TWILIGHT OF HIS TENURE AS SECRETARY OF STATE,
KISSINGER TOOK ON ONE OF THE TOUGHEST ASSIGNMENTS IN THE
WORLD: TO PREVENT A RACE WAR IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BY
PRODUCING MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA (SOUTH
WEST AFRICA).

15. VANCE COULD LEARN SOMETHING FROM STUDYING KISSINGER'S
HANDLING OF THE PRESS DURING THAT PERIOD.

16. KISSINGER SURE HAD ME CONVINCED THAT HE HAD DEFUSED

THE RHODESIAN POWDERKEG AND THAT HE HAD SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER READY TO HAND THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM TO THE BLACK MAJORITY IN NAMIBIA. THE HEADLINES LAST SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER SAID:

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17. "SOUTH AFRICA SEEN WILLING TO PRESS SMITH REGIME"

18. ,AN AFRICAN SUCCESS"

19. "A DR. K OFFER THEY COULD NOT REFUSE"

20. THE HEADLINES TODAY SAY THAT WAR IS INEVITABLE IN RHODESIA AND THAT VORSTER IS MORE STRIDENTLY ANTI-US AND RACIST THAN EVER.

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21. VANCE HAS GOT TO LEARN THAT IF YOU ARE A TRAVELING SECRETARY OF STATE, YOU DETERMINE THAT YOUR TRIP IS A "SUCCESS." YOU ARE, IN LARGE MEASURE, WHAT YOU HAVE THE EGO TO TELL THE PRESS YOU ARE.

22. KISSINGER HAD THE EGO TO SAY, IN SO MANY WORDS, "I DRAGGED MY TIRED BODY ON THE PLANE AND CAME OVER HERE AND TALKED THESE ISRAELIS AND ARABS OUT OF COMMITTING JOINT SUICIDE;"--AND FOR A WHILE HE HAD EVEN THE ISRAELIS AND ARABS BELIEVING HIM.

23. HE WADED INTO SOUTHERN AFRICA WITH SUCH PRESTIGE AND SELF-ASSURANCE THAT AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY LEADERS TEMPORARILY BELIEVED WHAT HE SAID RHODESIA'S WHITE RULER, IAN SMITH, HAD PROMISED HIM.

24. SMITH AND VORSTER BELIEVED THAT KISSINGER REALLY HAD DREDGED A UNIFIED POSITION OUT OF THE BLACK FACTIONS FIGHTING FOR ULTIMATE SUPREMACY IN RHODESIA.

25. I REMEMBER FROM MY DAYS IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT "MODUS OPERANDI" WAS A MUCH-USED PHRASE. SOMEONE HAD BETTER TELL VANCE THAT KISSINGER HAD A METHOD OF OPERATION, WHILE VANCE SEEMS TO HAVE NONE AT ALL.

26. POOR VANCE IS PROBABLY TOO TIRED TO CARE ONE WHIT ABOUT SELLING HIMSELF, OR DRAPING HIMSELF IN LEAKS ABOUT HOW HE IS THE GREAT NEW PEACEMAKER.

27. BUT VANCE WILL FIND THAT HE WILL GET A LOT TIREDER, MUCH FASTER, IF HE COMES OUT OF PEKING WITH THE PRESS SCREAMING, "ANOTHER VANCE FAILURE." CHRISTOPHER

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